



**January 9, 2022**

**St. John's United Church of Christ**

*As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.*

**Called by God  
Sharing with the World**

**January 9, 2022**  
**The Baptism of Christ**

**Meditation**

“One of the things we desperately need is a spiritual renewal in this country. We need a spiritual revival in America.” ~Billy Graham

**Chimes**

**Prelude**

*Adore - Chris Tomlin*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**✝ Opening Hymn**

*When Jesus Came to the Jordan*

When Jesus came to Jordan  
To be baptized by John,  
He did not come for pardon,  
But as the sinless One.  
He came to share repentance  
With all who mourn their sins,  
To speak the vital sentence  
With which good news begins.

He came to share temptation,  
Our utmost woe and loss,  
For us and our salvation  
To die upon the cross.  
So when the Dove descended  
On him, the Son of Man,  
The hidden years had ended,  
The age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us  
To keep the vows we make;  
This very day invade us,  
And ev'ry bondage break.

Come, give our lives direction,  
The gift we covet most:  
To share the resurrection  
That leads to Pentecost.

## Lifting up our Joys

## Passing of the Peace

### ✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

From the waters of Creation, the earth sprang forth.

**From the waters of a womb, God's blessed Son was given to us.**

From the waters of a river, people were baptized and marked as God's Children.

**Praise be to God, whose loving gifts and presence have called us together.**

Let us shout our love to God for God's abundant love.

**Amen.**

### ✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

### ✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**O God, we hear your voice, and we see the way of Jesus set before us. But it's hard, dear God, to try again and again to live up to our baptismal vows and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world. In repentance we ask you to forgive us. Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

### ✠ Assurance of Forgiveness (*read responsively*)

Dear Friends, God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus. God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way. **Thanks be to God!**

## Bible Readings

*Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3: 15-22*

## Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

## Hymn of Response

### *Baptized in Water*

Baptized in water,  
sealed by the Spirit  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;  
heirs of salvation,  
trusting his promise  
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;  
one with his rising,  
freed and forgiven  
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our king;  
born of one Father,  
we are his children  
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

## Anthem

*Here am I* - John Ness Beck

## Pastor's Message

*"Like a Dove Descending"*

Pastor Jeff

## ✠Renewal of Baptismal Vows *(read responsively)*

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your baptism?

**I do.**

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

**I do.**

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

**I do**

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

**I do.**

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

**I do.**

In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church, where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

**A UNISON PRAYER –**

**O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received.**

**We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to**

**live a life worthy of our calling. In the way of Jesus,**

**make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.** *(Vows and prayer taken from the UCC Book of Worship)*

**✠ Giving our Gifts to God**

**✠ Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** *(unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we**

**forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us**

**from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.**

**Amen**

**✠ Closing Hymn**      *My Jesus, I Love Thee*

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;

for thee all the follies of sin I resign;

my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;

if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me  
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;  
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;  
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,  
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,  
and say when the death dew lies cold on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

## ✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

## ✠ Chimes/Meditation

## Postlude

*Power of Your Love - Geoff Bullock*



***The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,  
In memory of loved ones,***

***Presented by Chuck & Kim Bonner***

***Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson***